

Army Names First Operational Unit to Receive Increment 1 Technology
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The Army today announced the operational unit that will receive the first Increment 1 Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT) equipment. This equipment set is part of the Army's strategy to develop and field Capability Packages, which provide the Army a regular process to strengthen our units with the latest materiel and non-materiel solutions to meet and overcome the evolving challenges of the operating environment. The Increment 1 equipment and network forms a part of the Army's first Capability Package, which will also include other materiel and non-materiel solutions.

The 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 1st Armored Division (AD) (3-1 AD) headquartered at Fort Bliss, Texas, will be the first Army BCT to receive these Increment 1 networked systems. Starting in 2011, the Brigade will be issued the Increment 1, which consists of the Small Unmanned Ground Vehicle, Class 1 Block 0 Unmanned Air Vehicle, Tactical and Urban Unattended Ground Sensors, the Non-Line of Sight Launch System, and Network Integration Kits, which allows for increased surveillance at company and below level and more agile fire support across the IBCT.

Increment 1 provides the capability to significantly improve IBCT Soldier's safety and knowledge of the battlefield as they can send unmanned systems into high threat environments instead of entering those areas themselves. All Increment 1 systems are networked to support sharing of detailed tactical and visual data across the company and below level of the IBCT leveraging, supplementing and improving existing current force networks.

Upon receipt of the Increment 1 equipment, the 3-1AD will conduct an Initial Operational Test and Evaluation (IOT&E) program to provide a valid assessment of system operational effectiveness and suitability. The IOT&E will mark the culmination of four years of rigorous tests of these capabilities and will factor into a full rate production decision for Increment 1 IBCT capabilities.

The 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, nicknamed The Bulldogs, is the first brigade in the division's history to be a light infantry unit. The Brigade, activated in August 2009, will consist of 3,400 Soldiers at full strength. Training on the Increment 1 equipment will begin in early 2011, with the IOT&E test scheduled later that year. Pending the outcome of the IOT&E tests, an additional eight Brigade Combat Teams will receive Increment 1 equipment between 2012 and 2013 as part of the Army's continued development and delivery of Capability Packages.